

Department of Public Health
and Human Services

Section:
RESOURCES

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:
Overview

Supersedes: TANF 400 (01/01/03)

References: ARM 37.78.102 and .401

GENERAL RULE--The filing unit's financial eligibility is determined by prospectively evaluating the resources of each member.

Determining financial eligibility means that an investigation of the household's current and future circumstances occurs. The results, a "best estimate," based on the household's reasonable expectations and knowledge, accurately reflect all facts and remain an accurate reflection of the likely situation throughout the eligibility period.

The "best estimate" involves a projection and evaluation of the household's resources. The projection of resources is then compared to the resource limitation. These estimates become the basis for eligibility for every ensuing benefit month until it is time to re-estimate (redetermine) or until a change in the household's circumstances occurs.

Any resources owned by the filing unit must be evaluated for accessibility, value, and exclusion status when making eligibility determinations.

≥ Countable resources cannot exceed \$3,000, regardless of family size.

TEAMS CODING

All resources, even if they are excluded per policy, must be entered on the appropriate TEAMS screen (FIAC, LIAS, OTAS, or VEHI). Enter all resource data for each filing unit member using the appropriate Type Codes (refer to TEAMS On-Line Help - F1). Some Type Codes are program specific and resource data may have to be entered more than once with different Type Codes for TEAMS to count it appropriately for each program in the case.

Financial account data such as checking and savings, individual retirement accounts, Keogh account, etc., is entered on the FIAC (Financial ACcounts) screen; liquid asset data such as cash-on-hand, stocks, bonds, etc., is entered on the LIAS (Liquid ASset) screen; other asset data such as life insurance, contract for deed, etc., is entered on the OTAS (Other ASset) screen; and vehicle data is entered on the VEHI (VEHicle) screen, with some exceptions.

If any changes are made to the financial screens, eligibility must be redetermined by entering through the EXRA, EXRF, EXRM, MARD,

QMRD and/or SLRD screens as appropriate. If benefits have been authorized for the Benefit Month, any change will deauthorize the benefits.

TEAMS will process the data, ensuring that all resource eligibility is determined. The results are displayed on the EXRA, EXRF, EXRM, MARD, QMRD and/or SLRD screens.

DATE OF RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY

Resources are considered accessible either when available or when the individual has a legal interest in the liquidated sum and has the legal ability to make such sum available.

Eligibility is determined on the basis of the countable resources as of the application date and the first moment of the first day of each subsequent month for which assistance is being determined.

NON-LIQUID RESOURCES

Non-liquid resources are resources that cannot reasonably be immediately converted into cash. The term may be applied to any resource. A resource which has been determined to be non-liquid for any reason is not considered inaccessible or excluded simply because the value of the asset cannot be accessed in the benefit month.

RESOURCES OF DISQUALIFIED/ INELIGIBLE MEMBER

The resources of a required filing unit member receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are not counted in determining eligibility for the other required filing unit members. The SSI recipient cannot be a member of the assistance unit (does not receive benefits - code 'OU' or 'SC', as appropriate).

The resources of a disqualified required filing unit member (coded 'DQ' on SEPA) are counted in full in determining eligibility for the remaining filing/assistance unit members. The resources of an alien's sponsor must be deemed. See 'Deeming', Section 604-1.

CURRENT MONTH'S INCOME

Income received in the current month is not counted as a resource. Therefore, if the income is deposited into a bank account, it is excluded as a resource in the current month, but countable in any future months.

CHANGES IN RESOURCES/ MONTH OF APPLICATION

Any changes in resources that occur and are reported after the date of application, but prior to the application being approved or denied, should be evaluated to determine if:

1. An increase in resources is the result of countable income in the month (thus, not a countable resource)
2. A decrease in resources results in a finding of eligibility for a month if the household appeared to exceed the resource limit.

NOTE:

If resource changes have occurred after the application date, but prior to any action on the application, the applicant can request in writing to have the start date changed.

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